



RESIDENTIAL FENCES, DECKS, SHEDS PATIO COVERS, AND ARBORS

Fences over six feet high require a Building Permit. For Building Permit purposes, fence height is measured from the lowest adjoining grade. Fences constructed on top of a retaining wall require a building permit regardless of the fence height.

Decks higher than 30 inches above grade require a building permit. Guardrails are required to be a minimum of 36 inches high and the railing shall be designed so intermediate spacing is less than four inches.

Sheds used for storage and utility purposes and arbors (free-standing structure) which are greater than 120 square feet in floor are require a building permit.

All patio covers (attached to the house) require a building permit.

Permit Issuance

To obtain a building permit, three sets of plans including the following information shall be provided to the Building Division between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon:

- Full site plan showing the location of the building and property lines.
- Indicate on the plans the location of the fence, deck, shed, patio cover, or arbor.
- Provide construction details for the proposed structure (i.e., footings, foundation, floor/wall/ceiling framing, etc.). Standard details for fences and patio covers are provided on the back of this page.
- Structural calculations and details may be required (i.e. for fences over seven feet in height)

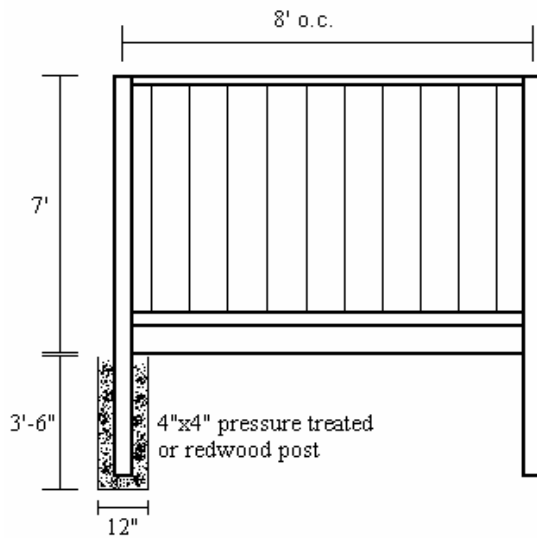
Review and approval by the Planning Division may be required prior to issuance of a building permit. Please contact a Planner at the One-Stop Permit Center for more information.

Inspections Required

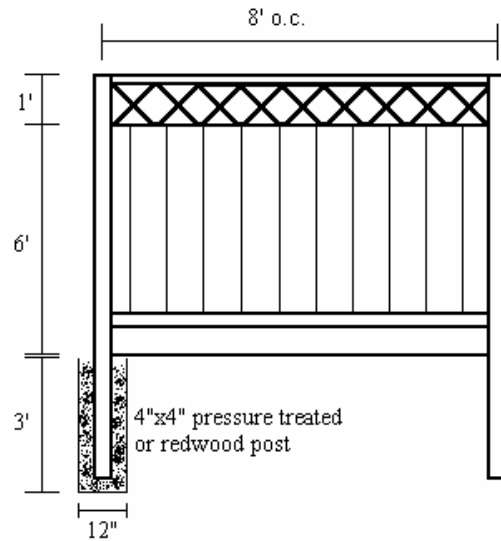
Fence installations require two inspections. The post hole inspection should be scheduled after the post holes are dug. The final inspection should be scheduled after all the work in complete.

The first inspection for decks, sheds, patio covers, and arbors is typically a footing or foundation inspection. Further required inspections are dependent on the construction of the structure and can be explained at the time of building permit issuance.

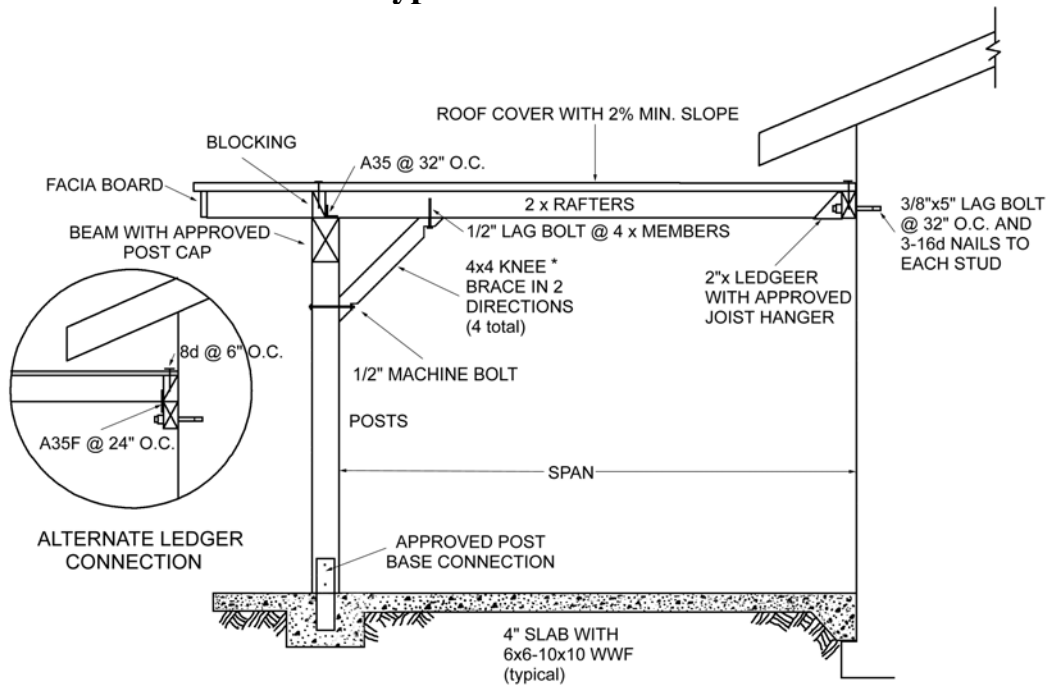
Typical Seven Foot High Wood Fence



Typical Six Foot High Wood Fence with One Foot of Lattice



Typical Patio Cover



If you have any questions, please call the City of Sunnyvale Building Division at (408) 730-7444. Information is also available on the Building Division web site at: www.sunnyvalebuilding.com.